

Marshallton Blacksmith Shop
(Cunningham Blacksmith Shop)
South side of State Route 162 (Strasburg Road),
.1 mile west of North Wawset Road, just east
of Marshallton Friends Meetinghouse (PA-1105)
Marshallton (West Bradford Township)
Chester County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1102

HABS,
PA,
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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. PA-1102

MARSHALLTON BLACKSMITH SHOP
(Cunningham Blacksmith Shop)

Location: South side of State Route 162 (Strasburg Road),
.1 mile west of North Wawset Road, just east
of Marshallton Friends Meetinghouse (PA-1105),
Marshallton (West Bradford Township), Chester
County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Mr. Merrill B. Cann, Marshallton, West Chester R.D.
#4, Chester County, Pennsylvania.

Statement of
Significance: A blacksmith's shop has been in operation on this site
since the mid-18th century, and the present building
may incorporate some parts of the original shop.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: Richard Woodward in 1724 bought one thousand acres in West Bradford township selling part in 1735 to son James; who left by will of 1748 part to son Robert; who as blacksmith sold part to Wm. England, Sr., blacksmith in 1771; who sold to his son Wm., Jr. in 1809. He sold to Eusebius Townsend in 1826; and he to Joseph Hickman in 1833; and he to Moses Marshall in 1833. His wife, Alice, sold to George Maxton in 1875; whose children sold to W. S. Keenan in 1905; who sold in 1935 to N. K. Donalson; who sold in 1945 to G. W. McAllsiter; who sold in 1947 to the present owner, Merrill B. Cann.
2. Date of erection: A shop seems to have been on the site since the mid-18th century. In the 1798 direct tax, it was 18' by 18' of stone with an 18' by 18' stone saddler's shop also. The present building may incorporate some of this; it appears early 19th century on the whole.
3. Architect, builder, suppliers, etc.: Unknown.
4. Original plans, construction etc.: Blacksmith shop to the west has always been one large room with a shed to the south. The two story wheelwright shop to the east also consists of a room on each floor, with a shed to the south on the roof, where carriages could be taken through large double doors to dry the paint. The building is almost unchanged.
5. Alterations and additions: The building is practically unchanged. A ramp which used to lead from the second floor drying porch to the ground has been removed.

6. Important old views and references:

a. Views: None known.

b. References: Sources of information all to be found in the Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pa. - Classified printed and manuscript files under the heading: West Bradford Township. Business Houses.

Woodward, Lewis. Genealogy of the Woodward Family.
Wilmington, Delaware: 1879.

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure:

This building has always been operated as a smith shop, and in 1958 it is still in use. Robert Woodward who inherited the property in 1748 was a blacksmith, as was Wm. England who owned it from 1771 to 1809. Wm. England, Jr. was a saddler and his brother, Thomas, a smith. Thus, the owners were probably smiths until 1826. The next owners seem to have rented the property. George Maxton, who bought it in 1875, had been renting it and had been a smith there since 1844. His son-in-law, John E. Cunningham, followed him as smith; and the next owner, Wm. E. Keenan, was also a smith. The present smith, William E. Ludwig, has been renting the shop since 1936.

C. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated:

None known.

D. Supplemental Material:

Copy of Original Manuscript in Possession of the Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pa.

John Buffington Dr.	L	S	D
29 d 11 mo. 1773 To 2 new Shoes & 2 removes	0	2	0
3 d 1 mo. 1774 To 2 new Shoes	0	1	6
25 d 2 mo. To Gathangings 3 3/4 lb.	0	2	9 1/2
5 d 3 mo. To 1 remove	0	0	3
16 d To 2 Stone Wedges 3 lb.	0	3	0
23 d To 1 remove	0	0	3
8 d 4 mo. To 1 new Shoes	0	0	9
7 d To 4 removes	0	1	0
16 d To 2 Sharps & mending faulscoulter		0	9
20 d To 2 moves		0	6
19 d 5 mo. To 1 Clout		0	9
	0	13	6 1/2

"Received the 29th of 12 mo. 1775 of Richard Buffington one of the Executors of the Estate of John Buffington Late of West Brad-

ford Deceas'd the above Contents of the above account in full
pr William England"

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This is a typical crudely built blacksmith's shop, parts of which probably date from the mid-18th century.
2. Condition of fabric: Fair.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The structure measures 40'-4" (six-bay front) x 30'-4"; the west section is one-and-a-half stories and the east section is two stories.
2. Foundations: Stone.
3. Wall construction: Random coursed stone with a painted stucco covering.
4. Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc.: None.
5. Chimneys: The chimney located on the east side of the building is placed on the ridge at the end of the roof. It is constructed of ten rows of brick.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: There are two doors leading into the structure. One of vertical battens has a four light window in the upper half. The door to its right leading into the one story part is of simple construction with vertical boarding. There are three large double doors, two on the first floor and one on the second floor level. They are constructed of rather vertical wooden boards. The second level doors have a six light window on the right door and a four light window on the left door.
 - b. Windows and shutters: The seven windows of the north side are six-over-nine-light double-hung wooden sash. The west side has two nine-over-nine light double-hung wooden sash windows on the first floor. The east side has four six-over-six-light double-hung wooden sash windows; two on each floor. There are no shutters present. There are no actual windows on the south side.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Low pitch tin gable roof.
- b. Cornice, eaves: There are no pent eaves and the cornice is limited to slight overhang of the roof on the north front side and south side.
- c. Dormers: None.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The west section was one large room for smith shop. The east section was one room on each of the two floors for wheelwright and carriage making shops.
2. Stairways: Original.
3. Flooring: Wooden flooring seems original in the two story section.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Rough stone walls, and plaster.
5. Trim: None.
6. Hardware: None.
7. Lighting: Modern electricity.
8. Heating: There is a chimney for forge and stoves and modern steam heating.

D. Site:

General setting and orientation: Shop faces north and faces the main street of the village.

Prepared by Bart Anderson
Curator, Chester County
Historical Society
National Park Service
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